

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Monazite Mining in P'yongan-pukto, North Korea	DATE DISTR.	30 August 1955 25X1
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

1. Four monazite mines are located in Ch'olsan-gun, P'yongan-pukto; the Changp'yong mine at XD5094 in Paekyang-myon, the Singok mine,¹ the Kabong mine, and the Sukch'ong mine.² 25X1
2. In April 1954, the Changp'yong mine was controlled by the Ministry of Light Industry and employed about 2,500 laborers. Laborers were paid on a piece-work basis, on the 1st and 15th of each month, at a rate of 25 to 30 won per kilogram of monazite mined.³ Their salaries were obtained by the squad foreman who received payment from the control station according to the quality of the monazite mined. Heavy-duty laborers received 900 grams of food daily consisting of a half-and-half mixture of rice and another grain, soup, and salted pickles. Laborers' quarters were available at a boarding fee of 600 won monthly.
3. The labor force of the mine was usually divided into 30-men crews that dug for monazite under an expert's supervision. At potential monazite sites the crews dug to a depth of about 10 meters; then the expert sampled the deposit. If no monazite were found, the crews moved on to new locations. When deposits were located, the work force was divided into three teams of skilled workers only; a 7-man team, a 5-man team, and a 10-man team. The 7-man team dug, the 5-man team transported the diggings to large containers, and the 10-man team sorted out the monazite and rejected the useless sand. Rejected sand was processed twice. The remaining workers acted as stand-by relief for diggers and carriers.⁴
4. Monazite mining in a given area usually lasts for four or five months, but exceptionally rich deposits may run a year. The greatest production from the mine is realized during the summer months. Production decreases 30 percent during the period from November to January.

1. Comment. This is probably the most noted mine in the Ch'olsan-gun area. 25X1

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2. Comment. Another U.S. agency stated on 27 January 1955 that there were 10 mines in the vicinity of Ch'olsan (ZE4303) that employed about 20,000 workers and produced approximately 2,000 tons of ore per month. Previous reports on monazite mining in the Ch'olsan area are [redacted] 25X1
3. Comment. [redacted] squad mined 15 to 20 containers of 70 kilogram capacity and received an average wage of 1,200 won monthly. 25X1
4. Comment. KIM Tuk-ho, chief of the Changp'yong mine, stated that the monazite was shipped to the USSR; that if war broke out the North Korean government would consider monazite of strategic importance because the USSR had promised arms in return for the shipments. 25X1
- Comment. [redacted] in 1948 a trade agreement was concluded between North Korea and the USSR; North Korean monazite sand was to be exchanged for weapons and munitions from the USSR. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] monazite produced at Ch'olsan, North Pyongan Province, was being shipped to the USSR as a result of the 1948 agreement. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] all of the North Korean monazite production has been shipped to the Soviet Union. 25X1

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